

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IAEA V 03124 201007Z

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 DODE-00 /061 W

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8972

INFO USERDA HQ WASHDC

USERDA HQ GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS IAEA VIENNA 3124

DEPT PASS IO/SCT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, PARM, TECH

SUBJECT: AGENCY REQUEST FOR US ACCEPTANCE OF SAL RADIOACTIVE
WASTE

REFS: (A) IAEA VIENNA 1136; (B) IAEA VIENNA 1644; (C) IAEA
VIENNA 2208; (D) IAEA VIENNA 2742

1. DURING MARCH 30 MEETING IN WASHINGTON, SECRETARIAT MEMBER
CARLOS BUECHLER AGREED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
ON SUBJECT OF SAL RADIOACTIVE WASTE. BUECHLER HAS ASSEMBLED
REQUESTED INFORMATION AND HAS GIVEN TO MISSION FOR
TRANSMISSION AS FOLLOWS:

2. ON QUESTION OF WHETHER LACK OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISPOSAL
OF SAL RESIDUE IS HOLDING UP CLASS A LICENSE FOR SAL: GOA
WOULD GRANT LICENSE PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR
RESIDUE DISPOSAL, BUT HAVING ARRANGEMENTS IN PROSPECT WOULD
BE BENEFICIAL TO PROCESS OF LICENSE REQUEST..

3. ON QUESTION OF WHEN SAL WOULD MAKE FIRST SHIPMENT OF
PLUTONIUM-CONTAMINATED RADIOACTIVE RESIDUE: DEPENDS
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PAGE 02 IAEA V 03124 201007Z

ON WHEN CLASS A LICENSE IS ISSUED; BUCCHLER ESTIMATES
THAT APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AFTER SAL BEGINS
PROCESSING PU SAMPLES, FIRST SHIPMENT WOULD TAKE PLACE.
THIS ESTIMATE BASED ON LEGAL LIMIT OF 220 GRAMS OF
PLUTONIUM RESIDUE, AND EXPECTATION THAT SAL WILL PROCESS
AT MOST ABOUT 400 SAMPLES OF 1 GRAM EACH PER YEAR.

4. ON QUESTION OF SAL CURRENT ACTIVITY: SAL IS PROCESSING URANIUM SAMPLES ONLY; NO PLUTONIUM SAMPLES WILL BE PROCESSED UNTIL CLASS A LICENSE RECEIVED.

5. ON QUESTION OF QUANTITY OF WASTE EXPECTED:

A. FOR PLUTONIUM FREE OF FISSION PRODUCTS, BUECHLER ESTIMATES ABOUT 400 GRAMS PER YEAR AT SAL AND 1400 GRAMS PER YEAR AT CONTRACT LABORATORIES.

B. FOR UNIRRADIATED URANIUM AT SAL, BUECHLER ESTIMATES ABOUT 350 GRAMS PER YEAR OF URANIUM ENRICHED TO LESS THAN 5 PERCENT, 500 GRAMS PER YEAR OF URANIUM ENRICHED BETWEEN 5-50 PERCENT, 2000 GRAMS PER YEAR OF URANIUM ENRICHED ABOVE 50 PERCENT. FOR CONTRACT LABORATORIES, THE ESTIMATED QUANTITIES ARE ABOUT 1000 GRAMS, 1400 GRAMS AND 5000 GRAMS, RESPECTIVELY.

C. FOR IRRADIATED NUCLEAR MATERIAL, BUECHLER ESTIMATES ABOUT 250 SAMPLES PER YEAR AT SAL AND 160 SAMPLES PER YEAR AT CONTRACT LABORATORIES. EACH SAMPLE WOULD CONTAIN MILLIGRAM QUANTITIES OF URANIUM, MICROGRAM QUANTITIES OF PLUTONIUM, AND UP TO 100 MILLICURIES OF ACTIVE FISSION PRODUCTS. STONE

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